

REMARKS

Claims 1-36 are pending in the Application. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101. Claims 1-3 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a). Claims 4-20 and 22-36 are indicated as allowable.¹

Applicants cancelled claims 4 and 22 as indicated above, and hence, claims 1-3, 5-21 and 23-36 are pending. Further, Applicants amended claims 1-3, 5-6, 21, 23, 29 and 31 as indicated above.

Applicants thank the Examiner for discussing the rejection to claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) with Applicants' attorney on February 28, 2007.

I. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §101:

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Office Action (12/15/2006), page 3. Applicants amended independent claims 1 and 6 to provide computer structure, as indicated above, thereby causing claims 1-20 to be directed to statutory subject matter. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejections to claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §101.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(a):

The Examiner rejects claims 1-3 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Kahle et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,654,869) (hereinafter "Kahle"). Appellants amended claim 1, as indicated above, by incorporating the limitations of allowable claim 4. Further, Applicants amended claim 21, as indicated above, by incorporating the limitations of allowable claim 22. Hence, claims 1-3 and 21 are allowable over Kahle.

III. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER:

Applicants appreciate the indication of allowability of claims 4-20 and 22-36. Applicants note that the Examiner indicated that claims 4-5 and 22-36 would be

¹ Applicants note that it appears that claims 22-36 should be allowed as the Examiner has not issued any rejections against claims 22-36.

allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office Action. Office Action (12/15/2006), page 7. However, Applicants could not locate any rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office Action.

IV. CONCLUSION:

As a result of the foregoing, it is asserted by Applicants that claims 1-3, 5-21 and 23-36 in the Application are in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request an allowance of such claims. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner call Applicants' attorney at the below listed number if the Examiner believes that such a discussion would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues.

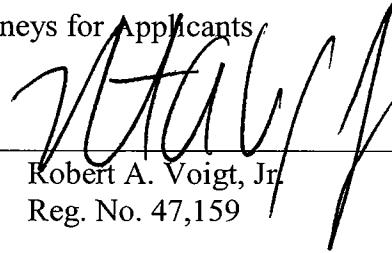
Respectfully submitted,

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